A USER GUIDE TO DIRECT PAYMENTS for EQUIPMENT

Jan 2015

If you have an eligible need for statutory services to provide equipment, you can choose to buy your own equipment to meet the same assessed need using **a Direct Payment**.

The value of the Direct Payment that you will be offered will be equivalent to the price of the equipment that you would have been given from Statutory Services (Devon County Council or the NHS).

Direct Payments can be used for new purchase, second hand or leased equipment if assessed as suitable by the Direct Payment Prescriber.

Direct Payments for equipment cannot be offered to people in care homes.

It is the responsibility of the Staff member who prescribes a Direct Payment to:

- check that your choice of equipment is appropriate to meet the assessed need, taking into account changing needs if you have a fluctuating or degenerative condition.
- confirm that the money has been spent appropriately
- review as soon as possible after delivery, the appropriate installation and use of the equipment
- provide you with results of any health and safety assessments and moving and handling plans, undertaken as part of the assessment of need.
- advise you on the health and safety aspects of using any prescribed equipment.

It is your responsibility to:

- use the Direct Payment for equipment that will meet the assessed need.
- accept responsibility for your own Health and Safety and that of persons employed by you or caring for you when using any equipment purchased by a Direct Payment.
- consult the manufacturer's instructions for safe use of equipment
- ensure all statutory checks and maintenance are undertaken in compliance with the requirements of health and safety legislations, such as 'Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations' or Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations'.
- take out insurance for the equipment
- repay any underspend if the equipment costs less than the value of the Direct Payment.
- offer Statutory Services first refusal when equipment is no longer required

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